



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Kansas

NEWS RELEASE

Eric Melgren, U.S. Attorney

Contact: Kena Rice

(316) 269-6481

Headquarters

1200 Epic Center
301 N. Main
Wichita, Kansas 67202
(316)269-6481
FAX (316)269-6484

Topeka Office

444 Quincy
Topeka, Kansas 66683

Kansas City Office

500 State Avenue
Suite 360
Kansas City, Kansas
66101

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February 19, 2004

MAN SENTENCED FOR POSSESSION WITH THE INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE APPROXIMATELY 13,357 TABLETS OF ECSTASY; OTHERS CHARGED AND ARRESTED IN SAME CASE

TOPEKA, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Vu Huy Doan**, 26, of Surrey, British Columbia (Canada), was sentenced on February 17, 2004, by U.S. District Judge Julie A. Robinson **to seven years and three months in federal prison, without parole, to be followed by six years of supervised release and ordered to pay a \$2,000 fine.**

Melgren stated that Doan entered a guilty plea on February 18, 2003, to one count of possession with the intent to distribute approximately 3.4 kilograms (approximately 7.48 pounds or 13,357 tablets) of Ecstasy on October 25, 2002. Doan also pled guilty to knowingly using a minor to commit or assist in the commission of a drug offense.

Melgren said that Doan admitted at his plea that on October 25, 2002, he was stopped by the Kansas Highway Patrol on I-70 in Lincoln County for speeding. Doan was accompanied by another individual who was a minor at the time. The trooper searched Doan's vehicle and, in a hidden compartment, he found approximately 13,357 tablets of Ecstasy vacuum-packed into twelve plastic bags. Doan admitted that he was to be paid \$5,000 for transporting the Ecstasy, and that the minor was assisting him in transporting these drugs.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the Kansas Highway Patrol and the Drug Enforcement Administration in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney Anthony Mattivi in this prosecution. Melgren also mentioned that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), Surrey Detachment, had been investigating Doan for some time prior to the traffic

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stop in Kansas, and he said that the RCMP provided information and cooperation which assisted significantly in Doan's prosecution and conviction in this case.

Melgren also announced that, at the conclusion of Doan's sentencing hearing, DEA agents arrested Doan's parents and girlfriend, who had been indicted on a conspiracy charged related to Doan's conviction. **Tuyet Ngoc Doan** a/k/a Terri Doan, mother, **Danh Thanh Doan** a/k/a Dan Doan, father, and **Thi Tha Lan Nguyen** a/k/a Grace Nguyen, girlfriend, all of Surrey, British Columbia (Canada), were each charged by a federal grand jury in Topeka, Kansas, with one count of conspiracy to distribute controlled substances including Ecstasy from November 20, 2001, through October 25, 2002.

Doan's parents and Grace Nguyen had traveled to the United States to attend Doan's sentencing hearing. Agents chose to execute the arrest warrants while the three were present in the United States rather than having to extradite the trio from Canada. First appearances were held that afternoon, and detention hearings were held on February 18, 2004. All three were temporarily detained. If convicted, each face a maximum of twenty years in federal prison without parole.

As in any criminal case, a person is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. The indictment filed merely contains allegations of criminal conduct.